

# SPOKE

## Conestoga College, Kitchener

MAY 31, 1999

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## Coma doesn't stop Conestoga student

By Elizabeth Sackrider

After months of struggle and hard work, John Pierre (J.P.) Moons, a construction and engineering student at the college, is on the road to recovery after being in a coma.

He returned home to Forest, Ont., (near Strathroy) May 6 after being in the hospital since the middle of March.

Moons was injured in a car accident in London on March 5. He was riding in the car with friends Steve Blizman and Kevin Maxim, both students at the college, when

their car slid on an icy road through a red light.

In a phone conversation on May 19, Moons spoke about his condition. Talking slowly, he said he was happy to be out of the hospital.

"I do have very bad dizzy spells," he said. "Very bad."

Moons couldn't speak on the phone for very long due to problems with the parts of his brain related to memory.

"I will have problems with my short-term memory for about a year," he said. "I am not allowed to start school until January."

Moons's facial expressions and personality are all returning after a significant leave of absence, said his mother Mona.

"The laughter is coming back," she said.

When Moons starts school in the winter semester, he will be getting his own apartment, said his mother. Previously, he had lived at Rodeway Suites, the private student residence at Conestoga.

"I hope that his school friends will keep in contact with him in the future," she said. "He can't drink, smoke or inhale any of those funny smokes for a year."

According to his mother, Moons has undergone severe brain trauma. Drinking or other related activities will probably cause a seizure.

But "he's really a lucky boy," she said. "He is really good except for his short-term memory."

Although Moons is out of the hospital he has to travel to Sarnia with his mother for physical therapy three times a week. In addition to this, Moons also takes part in occupational therapy and has a social worker visit him two times a week.

"Sometimes people can get depressed while on the recovery so we have someone come in," said his mother.

In order to take care of her son, including all his therapy, his mother has been off work since the accident and will re-main off for an additional three months.

"I just want to do anything I can for my son," she said. "My work has been really great."

## Ready to learn



These students of the Employment Readiness Training program have been accepted for full-time studies at the college's Doon campus. From left to right, Randy Simon, Barbara Kleinsteuber, Nigel Grinstead, Randy McCue, Mary Breen, Carol Carvalho, Michele Juniper, Lorie Zanette and Larry Litwiller.

(Photo by Charles Kuepfer)

### Graduates from the Employment Readiness Training program get set to tackle full-time studies

By Charles Kuepfer

Michele Juniper jokes that she used to be a "domestic engineer", referring to her job as a housewife. Now she has chosen to further her education.

And thanks to Conestoga College's employment readiness training (ERT) program, she will begin full-time studies in the health office administration program in September.

Juniper, who studied at the Cambridge campus, is just one of several students from the program to be accepted into full-time programs, ranging from construction engineering technology to practical nursing, at the Doon campus.

The ERT program helps students gain effective problem-solving skills, set realistic goals and make plans and decisions that are right for a student's life.

The program, which is delivered individually to meet a student's needs, has helped these students make informed career decisions.

Some students, like Nigel Grinstead, have a Grade 12 diploma, yet needed to improve their academic skills. Grinstead, who has been accepted into the materials management program, says he had to upgrade his math and English skills.

The program helps an individual identify weaknesses and strengths. They also learn new life

skills, which complement the life skills they have already acquired.

"A lot of us have been out (of school) for 20 years," says Lorie Zanette, who has been accepted into the health office administration program for September.

"It's been 30 years for me," adds Carol Carvalho, who will also be taking the health office administration program.

Problem solving is an emphasis of the program, and helps students learn to make responsible decisions in all areas of their lives.

"You have to learn about yourself, too," says Larry Litwiller, who is going into the two-year engineering technology program.

Students say they have a lot of homework and note that the program requires a great deal of effort.

"It is tough," says Grinstead.

Barbara Kleinsteuber, who is going into the practical nursing program, agrees.

"It's hard to manage your time when you're not used to doing your homework," she says. "(But) as a mature student you're much more devoted to it."

The students will finish the ERT program by the end of July. Students started the course at different times throughout the year.

Susan Garlick, co-ordinator for the Preparatory Studies School of College Access and Preparatory Studies, says the program has four blocks of intakes and accepts students from social services agencies and by referral of the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB).

"Most students come to this campus by word of mouth referrals," explains Garlick, who says the program has a high success rate.

There are also similar programs operating at the Waterloo, Guelph and Stratford campuses.

## No free parking after dispenser theft attempt

By Angela Clayfield

Sometime over the weekend of May 15-16, the daily ticket vending machine in parking lot 11 was damaged in an attempt to remove it from the property, said Allan Hunter, security supervisor at Conestoga College.

The cost of repairing the ticket dispenser will not be known until a technician can look at it. A new one costs \$9,500, Hunter said.

"Some significant damage was done," he said. In addition to a scratched and dented casing, some of the electrical components may have been damaged.

Hunter said it appears as though a person tied a chain to the machine and tried to remove it from its pole with their vehicle. Pieces of a broken tail-light assembly were found on site.

A report has been filed with Waterloo regional police and the investigation of the incident is in the preliminary stage.

Hunter said there is no reason to think a student attempted to take the dispenser and that it's likely the person responsible wanted the money inside.

Since the machine is emptied daily there was not a significant amount of cash to take.

For now, students or visitors wishing to park in lot 11 need to report to security to have their licence plate recorded and to pay the ticket price.



# Hail the mighty Ale Trail

## Conestoga graduate impressed with six-brewery, weekend tours

By Brian Gall

Hey, all you beer lovers, listen up.

The Ale Trail is the best thing to happen to beer in Ontario's recent history. Six brewers in Elora, Guelph and Waterloo are inviting the public to tour brew houses, sample a range of beer styles and meet their brewers. And it is all free.

For seven weekends in 1999 Brick and Gold Crown in Waterloo, F & M, Sleeman and Wellington County, all in Guelph, and Old Mill in Elora, will open their doors to travellers of the Trail. The event is held on the third weekend of every month from 1 to 4:30 p.m., from April through October. The remaining dates are: June 19 and 20, July 17 and 18, Aug. 21 and 22, Sept. 18 and 19 and Oct. 18 and 19.

The Trail was launched in 1998 with open houses on Sundays only, and attracted about 10,000 visitors.

Waterloo and Wellington counties have the highest concentration of craft breweries in Ontario and produce more than 60 styles. The Waterloo-Wellington Area Brewers' Group was established when this concentration was realized and The Ale Trail is the group's first major project.

Craft beer is made in small batches with no preservatives, and ingredients are added by hand. Raising awareness and



Andy Key, of Brick Brewing Co., pours a sample during The Ale Trail Saturday, May 15.

(Photo by Brian Gall)

appreciation for handcrafted beers, educating beer drinkers about the history, art and science of crafting, increasing sales of craft beers and bringing tourism to the area are the objectives of the event.

Mary Cocivera, Ale Trail coordinator, said audiences participating in the Trail are not limited to the traditional beer drinker. Based on last year, she said the average age is 30 and up, though

that is not to say 19 to 30 year olds are not represented.

"But in general, it tends to be couples that are out for the weekend, or two couples together. And last year we had a group of women in their 70s," she said.

According to The Ale Trail's press release, brewers' contributions have been supplemented with help from the industrial adjustment service of Human Resources Development Canada

and from the rural job strategy fund of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Formal tours are not included, as this is a self-guided drive to the six breweries.

Two van companies are available to take groups along the Trail. They are Red Car Service in Guelph and Town and Country in K-W.

The brewers endorse responsible

consumption of their products and recommend a designated driver. Sampling is limited to three, three-ounce glasses per brewery, and water and soft drinks are available for non-drinkers.

Ross Peters, who graduated from Conestoga College in 1987, was thoroughly impressed with the concept of the Trail while tasting some of Brick's samples. He said craft beers have a distinctive taste compared to mass-produced labels.

"I'm not a beer connoisseur but I've travelled to Europe and tried (their styles,) where beer first came from," the computer programming grad said. "And the flavour of beer sold in microbreweries does not compare to the usual Labatt's and Molson's, where it's just coloured alcohol. There's some real flavour to this stuff."

Gene Gerland, 27, of Waterloo, said he likes being able to look at what he will be drinking beforehand. "You get to go behind the scene and see how it is made and everything else," said the self-proclaimed microbrewery fanatic.

Based on the reaction from the public and survey forms filled out by visitors of last year's event, The Ale Trail has been a major success, surpassing all expectations, Cocivera said. "Last year we did market research and more than 90 per cent of them (visitors) said they had a great time."

## Tickets on sale for shelter benefit

By Brian Gall

Want to support a shelter for homeless women in dire need, and have a chance to win a train trip through the Rocky Mountains at the same time?

Raffle tickets are on sale to benefit Mary's Place, a local emergency shelter for women and children, in Kitchener, with the grand prize being a trip for two, followed by a two-day winery tour in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

The draw will be held June 10 at Celebrating the Grape, a wine tasting and auction to be held at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery at 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener.

Tickets for the event are \$40 and raffle tickets are \$10, or three for \$25. They are available at the YWCA and those interested can call 744-6507 for more information.

Tickets are also available from K-W YWCA board of directors president Madeleine Poynter at Conestoga College, by calling 748-5220 ext. 268, or by dropping by room 2C16 at the Doon campus.

Poynter, a teacher in Conestoga's social service department, says Mary's Place (a program of the YWCA) needs to raise \$250,000 every year in order to stay open.

"Money (that is raised) is used for all operating costs associated with the residence. So it's providing three meals a day to the women, their overnight accommodations and it is also (providing) residential counselling," said Poynter.

She said they hope to raise \$40,000 from the auction, including proceeds from the raffle tickets.

Mary's Place is a 53-bed residence operating at

more than 100 per cent capacity, and for each woman to stay there it costs about \$44 per night, Poynter said. So if the shelter were operating at normal capacity, \$40,000 would cover only 17 nights of security.

Poynter, who also serves on the YWCA national board of directors, said the situation for homeless women in the region is in crisis.

"Our shelter is full to overflowing every night. For almost a year now, we have had women sleeping on

the chesterfields in the lounges. And often we can't have meetings in the boardroom because it has been turned into bedrooms."

"It's desperate. The situation is absolutely desperate," she added.

Poynter said Mary's Place has a policy to never turn a woman away and that is why couches and cots have to be used.

She said the vacancy rate for affordable housing in this community is practically zero. So women who have a number of children or who need a place to live immediately, or have some kind of mental health problem, stand little chance of getting affordable housing.

"Probably about 30 per cent of them (Mary's Place residents) have mental health challenges. And a number of them are pregnant, and many of them are there because of abuse in their home," Poynter said.

The raffle is in its first year, but the annual auction is always a fun and popular event, she said. Both a live and silent auction will be held.

Mike Yaworski, a CKCO TV news anchor, will be the master of ceremonies.

Other prizes to be given in the raffle include a pair of yellow gold earrings, his and her bicycles, a white water rafting trip and a Broil King barbecue.

**"Our shelter is full to overflowing every night. For almost a year now, we have had women sleeping on the chesterfields in the lounges. And often we can't have meetings in the boardroom because it has been turned into bedrooms."**

**Madeleine Poynter**

**Kitchener Waterloo YWCA president**

## Transit passes gain popularity

By Chadwick Severn

The Conestoga College four-month bus pass may be cheaper than tickets, but that's not why business accounting student Della Ferguson likes it.

"I don't have to remember to get it every month," said Ferguson, who has graduated from her program, but still comes to the college almost every day to apply for jobs as a part of the student referral program.

Ferguson is one of 324 students who bought the Conestoga College four-month bus pass during the winter semester. The pass has been slowly creeping up in popularity, much to the delight of Kitchener Transit.

"It is one of our best package deals, when you look at the price of it," said Sandy Roberts, Kitchener Transit's supervisor of marketing and administration.

The four-month pass costs \$169, including a \$5 charge for the new photo identification card that the student receives. Before the new computerized system was used, the pass used to consist of two parts: the photo ID and the pass itself. Now the pass displays the student's photo using a digital camera.

The \$169 compares favourably

to other ways of paying to use Kitchener Transit. Four monthly passes would cost \$220, and 16 weeks of using tickets would amount to \$224.

The only problem, as Ferguson sees it, is that the \$169 is a lump sum which has to be paid at the beginning of the term.

"It's way more expensive, the initial outlay," said Ferguson. "But overall, it's better."

Roberts notes that, so far, the number of passes sold has been rising.

In 1997, Conestoga College students purchased 287 passes for the winter term, 26 for the summer term and 440 for the fall term. The next year, all three terms saw higher student pass numbers. The winter and summer terms saw a 33 per cent increase with 381 and 35 sold. Fall 1998 numbers rose only to 446, a one per cent increase.

Numbers for 1999 aren't in yet, but the count for this past winter has been tabulated up to March and stands at 324 passes.

Kitchener Transit will be taking detailed surveys of the usage of Doon campus's bus stops in November, Roberts said. The last time the stops were monitored was in 1996, when the number of people using each stop was counted.



# Broad career spectrum for Conestoga grad

By Anna Sajfert

She is a visionary, mover and leader. Judy Greenwood Speers, Conestoga College graduate, tells one success story after another, her voice echoing triumphantly like Joan of Arc's.

People say humans are not born winners, they are not born losers, but they are born choosers. And Speers, running as a Green Party candidate in the June 3 provincial election, is a case in point.

Raised on Wolfe Island, a young Speers was able to let her inspiration run free and wild over the 1000 Islands. Although she found comfort in the historical area and wondrous lakes and landscapes of this eastern Ontario's hot spot, Speers had different aspirations and agendas on her mind.

In 1981, and six months into her first pregnancy, Speers enrolled in the nursing program at Conestoga College and soon thereafter met Nancy Hacking, chair of certificate programs, who has become a great friend.

Speers likes to credit her debut in nursing to Hacking whom she describes as a wonderful woman.

Prior to Speers entering the college, she earned a business management certificate while working at K-Mart in

Kitchener.

After three years at the department store, Speers completed a five-year management course over a three-year period, she said. Speers was the store's third manager, but the first female manager among 600 males.

"I love to be the first," she said in an interview.

After the store closed, she relocated to Guelph to open Robinson's, a department store at Stone Road Mall. But Speers left this business after approximately two years due to deficiencies in management, she said.

"K-Mart had much better training grounds," Speers said.

She added Conestoga College patterned its business management courses after K-Mart's.

On the nursing career front, Speers proved to be a front-line trouper. Her first position was at the Hilltop Manor nursing home in Cambridge.

"I worked there because they were the first place to offer part-time work," she said, adding she had two young children at the time.

After working there for two years, Speers moved to Kitchener's Grand River Hospital. She stayed with the hospital for 13 years and currently works part-time in the rehabilitation and long-term care department.

Her life may seem busy and complex, but Speers said she

is a long way from settling down.

In 1992, she graduated from the University of Waterloo in gerontology. After she earned her first university degree, she decided to pursue another, but this time at McMaster University.

Speers' connections to Conestoga College haven't vanished though. She teaches rehabilitation to nursing students at the college on a contractual basis.

"Whenever there are sick calls or pregnancies, I come in," she said, adding her working days and hours are irregular.

Speers also currently manages a home-based business, which includes nutrition, low-fat cooking and diets. Moreover, she said she has done similar work in the past with alcohol and drug abuse groups.

"I love working with people," she said. "But this business is not incredibly profitable."

Her career spectrum has just hit an even higher and more demanding note. Speers said her 20-year affair with political activism and lobbying governments on primarily seniors, social justice and women's issues, led her to the Green Party.

"The Green Party has a voice of conscience. It's absolutely pivotal," she said, adding she is running as a Kitchener-Waterloo Green Party candidate.

## Teachers comment on leaders' chances

By Anna Sajfert

With only a few days left before the election the three provincial candidates, Mike Harris, Dalton McGuinty and Howard Hampton, are keeping within each other's punching distance. On May 18, the three provincial leaders staged a one-and-a-half-hour debate, which marked an important point in their 28-day campaign.

Right now the fates of Harris, the Conservative leader, McGuinty, the Liberal leader, and Hampton, the NDP leader, are in the hands of provincial voters.

Michael Dale, who teaches political science and Canadian history at Conestoga College, said Harris had everything to lose at the beginning of the debate.

"He was the punching bag," Dale said in reference to a simultaneous attack by McGuinty and Hampton on the Conservative leader in the first 10 minutes of the debate.

The Stratford city councillor said Harris's biggest concern should have been the current condition of the health-care system. However, he said, the Conservative leader failed to elaborate on the cost effects his privatization plans would have on the health system.

"If it would be cheaper, then what about quality?" Dale said during a May 18 interview.

He said Harris would have to be more careful in what his party delivers to patients and at the same time, not sacrifice the quality of health care.

However, Dale said Harris didn't lose his momentum.

Unlike the Conservative leader, the Liberal leader had the most to gain in the debate, Dale said.

However, McGuinty didn't manage to acquit himself well, he said.

"He let himself be talked into silence, he blew his momentum" Dale said, adding those were not the signs of strong leadership.

Dale also said McGuinty crumbled over a question about leader-

ship qualities from Robert Fisher of Global TV.

"He got hurt."

Dale said Hampton, unlike his two rivals, came across as a winner in the debate.

"He was strong," he said.

The college teacher said although the NDP had the biggest mountain to climb in this election, their leader was the most aggressive as he managed to stay on top of things.

"Mind you, he was a little nervous and jerky at the beginning," Dale said, adding Hampton did as well as he could have hoped.

Judy Greenwood Speers, a Conestoga College grad who is a contractual teacher and a Green Party candidate, agreed, saying Hampton came across strong.

"He's the winner," Speers said

in a May 17 interview.

The Green Party candidate, who said she keeps every politician on file, said she was amazed at Harris's ability to keep a straight face while telling half-truths to a vast Ontario audience.

She said she was appalled to see Harris suddenly fixated on getting people's names right during the debate while failing to show up at meetings of concerned parents of high school children.

Speers, who graduated from the nursing program in 1984, said no nurse today could trust Harris.

"He skipped over 35 hospital closings right down the pipe," she said, adding she was sick of Band-Aid solutions.

The Conservative leader's policies reflected "a retirement planning with two years notice."

Speers, who associates Harris's policies with shivers of terror, said the provincial government won't help health if it keeps undermining it.

"It's self-defeating and it's wrong," she said. "If incumbents can't be forthright, then it's the worst thing for them."

### Laying earthy carpet



Roger Porcellato (left) and Sean Branch, of KJB Landscaping lay sod outside the woodworking centre May 20.

(Photo by Brian Gall)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Women's rights not a preoccupation of resource group

To the editor:

I believe that your journalist, Carly Benjamin, got a bit carried away with her report on the Women's Resource Group in the May 17 edition of Spoke.

"Fighting for the equality of women" has never been an activity of the Women's Resource Group as far as I am aware nor is

it a preoccupation of my own. "Women's rights" have been both legislated and protected through the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for many years.

However, there are many issues in relation to female health, safety and social vulnerability which affect women. It is these kinds of issues which the Women's Resource

Group tries to address through providing informative speakers and resource material to both the student body and employees of the college.

We welcome and appreciate Spoke's coverage of these events.

Madeleine Poynter  
Women's Resource Group

### Corrections

•In a May 25 story entitled College Plays Vital Role in Assisting Disabled, it was mistakenly reported that a course for students with specific learning disabilities was taught to English as a second language students and students with mental, physical and emotional disabilities. The course is taught only to students with specific learning disabilities. The course has been taught to about 30 students to date.

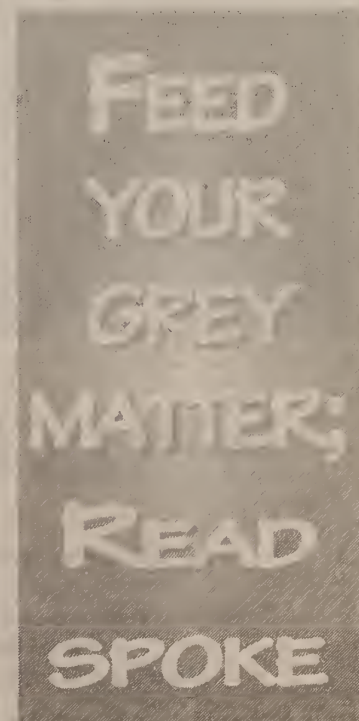
•In a May 25 commentary column, entitled Election Rhetoric Creates a Stench, it was erroneously reported the Ontario government had cut taxes 99 time. The actual number is 69.

•In a story in the May 10 issue of Spoke, Orientation Assistants

to Help in September, Melissa MacClennan was paraphrased when describing how orientation assistants, who will help during Orientation Week in September will be supervised by student services, not the registrar's office.

"Having peer service involved in the orientation and registration process by recruiting and training orientation assistants is a positive way to add a peer component to the overall process of orientation for new students coming to the college," MacClennan said in a statement regarding the story. She did not intend her remarks to be interpreted by the reporter as a criticism of the registrar's office.

•Spoke regrets the errors.





# There's hope for the future

I shot my cousin in the head, gross point blank.

Then I laughed, eye-brows raised in surprise. Other family members laughed. Then my cousin joined in because he was as surprised as I was that I made the shot to begin with.

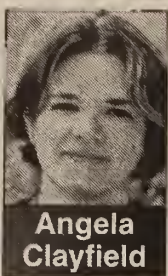
Looking back now it was kind of a macabre thing to be laughing about.

It was just a video game but it was so realistic that playing it became second nature.

I know the difference between video games and reality and I hope most young people do and, yet, headlines rant about the latest evil deed performed by today's youth.

Children are shooting children and adults are blaming it all on Marilyn Manson (a whole topic in itself). We're going to hell in a hand basket, they say.

I have reason to believe there is



Angela Clayfield

hope for the future.

Recently there have been a number of "teenyboppers" (as I used to call them) hanging around my neighbourhood, most of them 30 feet from my front porch.

One day my parents discovered that someone had very carelessly sprayed or spilled pop all over the side of the family car.

You can believe how thrilled my folks were.

The car was washed before any damage was done to the paint job, so nothing was really lost.

But the fact remains that you can't accidentally spill a whole can of soda on the side of someone's car.

My mother, being the family member that takes crap from absolutely no one, spread the word among the youngsters who are almost always next door.

We hadn't expected anyone to come forward.

No one came forward before. This was the second food-related incident in the 11 years since we moved in.

Our house was egged once; it sat there for a few years because we

were waiting for someone to take the blame. No one ever did and the siding was eventually replaced.

Well, a few nights ago as I relaxed in front of the tube, one of the kids who hangs around next door, came to the door asking for my mother.

She wasn't available but I was happy to take the message.

He had come to apologize for spilling pop on our car.

My mother and I had to agree this was a breakthrough. He realized he had done something stupid and maybe even (dare I say it) wrong, and he owed up to it.

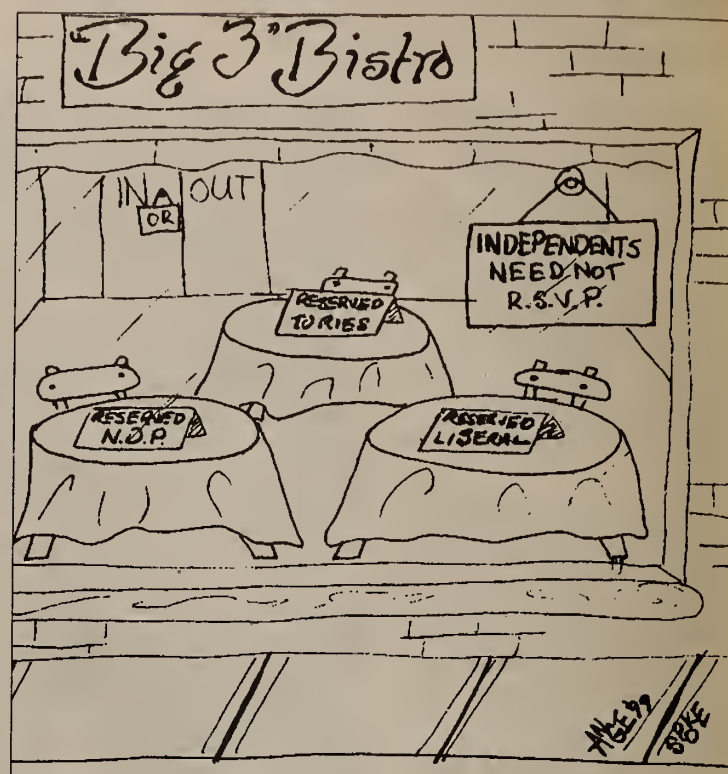
A great many kids his age (12 or 13) would never have said a word. I mean, it's only mild acid on our car, but it's the only car we have.

People worry about the children of tomorrow because we have to hand the world over to them.

Well, I'll be sharing it with them, but you get my drift.

We're going to be in charge soon and everyone would like to think we're going to do a bang-up job.

And we will, as long as the younger ones spray pop and not bullets.



## Parents must commit fully to their children

There is a major decision two people make when they are blessed with the gift of becoming parents. They can either take responsibility for the life they have created, or choose not to.

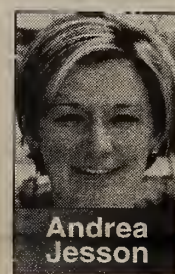
Millions of people make this decision every day. Many make the wrong decision.

Partners who accept this gift of parenting should think of it as an eternal bond never to be broken. Some may feel it is insensitive to suggest a set of rules a parent should follow, or a contract carved in stone, but this is what the role of being a parent is all about.

It is not a temporary position you put on a resume in case you may get another one. It's not just about having responsibility for the person you brought into the world, but respect for his or her life and well-being.

There is a difference between rearing a child and giving birth to one. Although any man can father a child, it takes a devoted one to be a dad.

Karen and Jerry Kraus got a second chance and people around the world are calling it a miracle. People were so caught up in the rescue of 17-month-old Jessy Kraus from a well, that they forgot to question why he fell in the well in the first place.



Andrea Jesson

The eight-metre well, only 20 centimetres wide, was dug in the backyard of little Jessy's home in Mulvane, Kan. After five feverish hours of digging to reach the child, who was trapped three metres from the pit of the well, he was rescued, unharmed, with only mild hypothermia and minor injuries. A miracle? Yes, but still a tragedy and a mystery. What possessed the parents to let their 17-month-old son wander the backyard when they knew there was an uncovered hole nearby?

If the people of Mulvane must dig wells on their property to water their yards, it should be within a restricted area enclosed by barriers. It's not rocket science, just common sense and a little respect for another human being's life.

This incident comes 12 years after 18-month-old Jessica fell into an abandoned well in Midland, Tex. It took rescue workers 26 days to reach her.

You would think parents around the world would be more cautious after the harrowing ordeal in 1987.

What exactly is it going to take for parents to commit and follow through with their parenting roles and take responsibility and care for their own flesh and blood?

I always thought the issue of potential parents passing a test and obtaining a licence before becoming a parent was absolutely ridiculous, but I'm afraid situations like these call for action. It's a child's right.

## Graduation: now what?

The balloons have all deflated, the champagne has been drunk, someone puked on your gown and the weird guy in your politics class ate the tassels off your cap.

It is the day after graduation. As you sit there, either nursing a hangover or trying to move the unconscious bodies out of your parents' living room, you are all of a sudden hit with an overwhelming anxiety attack.

Beads of sweat run down your forehead, you clench your hands and wonder what happened to those three years.

It seems like only yesterday that you were cleaning up after your high school graduation.

All of a sudden you are caught in the corporate world of suits, stock markets and 16-hour days. You are an adult now and this means no more fooling around.

Sure, some people can't face growing up and will still return



Elizabeth Sackrider

to school in the fall for their third consecutive degree, while others land top salary jobs right away thanks to their daddy's golf buddies.

But most of us are left with confetti in our hair and feeling more lost than ever before.

There is money to think about.

I know for myself that it is easier to be a knotted up ball of stress rather than the carefree kid, but a diploma or degree is why we enrolled in school in the first place.

Like that student loan and car payments or rent.

Job offers are like art students in a computer science class, few and far between.

And the ones which do come along are not exactly a dream.

At this point in your life you can either be a walking wreck or you can take control.

The positive side to the situation is no more exams.

You won't have to put in 48 hours of straight studying or worrying about remembering the size of an amoeba's nucleus.

If you play your cards right your rusty Firefly with one door handle could be traded in on a shiny new car.

Now, wouldn't that be nice to not have to worry about how your passengers are going to get in and out?

To actually have a good car that your friends won't have to climb in the side window to get in?

Another benefit of being a graduate is no more residence living. No more sharing one bathroom with 30 other people.

Having to pee during the middle of the night won't result in injury from the direct result of sliding across the vomit all over the floor.

I know for myself that it is easier to be a knotted up ball of stress rather than the carefree kid, but a diploma or degree is why we enrolled in school in the first place.

Now we just have to wait for the fun to begin.

# SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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# Political campaigns in high gear

By Linda Wright

With the June 3 election date fast approaching, political campaigns are in high gear.

Paid commercials from the different parties are telling us everything we want to hear. As we drive around, lawn



Ellen Menage, president of the Doon Student Association.

signs depict our favourite politicians.

Mike Harris, known as the "tax cut guy", slashed \$1.9 billion from areas such as welfare and highway projects. The government's mini budget released on Nov. 29, 1995 cut \$6.2 billion from municipalities, hospitals and schools over three years, according to an article in Maclean's May 17 edition.

In 1995, Harris campaigned on a platform of big tax and spending cuts and a tough work-for-welfare plan. He said he would put money back in the pockets of taxpayers or quit if he failed.

Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty, NDP Leader Howard Hampton, along with other parties are ready to fill the position of premier.

Of 15 students randomly surveyed at the Doon campus of Conestoga College May 17, most said they didn't know enough about the election to vote; others said if they didn't vote, then they have no right to complain.

Bryan Bambrick, management studies grad, said it's important to vote for the leadership of your country.

"You don't have a right to complain unless you vote," he said.

Kurosh Burris, a network support specialist student, said he's not voting because

he's not into politics.

Ellen Menage, president of the DSA, said she thinks it's important everyone take part in voting. "I belong to the Liberal party, so I should probably vote," she said.

Dave McIntosh, professor in mechanical engineering, said it's important to vote.

He added, "We're fortunate in this country when we want to change the government we can use the ballot box instead of the army."

Dave Kipp, second-year woodworking technology student, said he likes to have a decision in what's going on.

"Maybe my vote will help," he said, "because I don't like what's going on now."

Ryan Woolner, second-year woodworking technology student, said he hasn't looked into the election.

He said, "I don't want to make an uneducated guess."

Neil Dunford, a home-study program instructor, said he will definitely be voting.

"I don't believe in some of the things the Conservatives are doing with the educational issues particularly, college fees going up."

Kurosh Abdi, a second-year robotics engineer student, said he wouldn't be voting.

"I didn't know about it (the election),"

he said.

Brent Englehart, a third-year computer programming analyst student, said he wasn't sure how he was going to vote and he didn't really like the candidates.

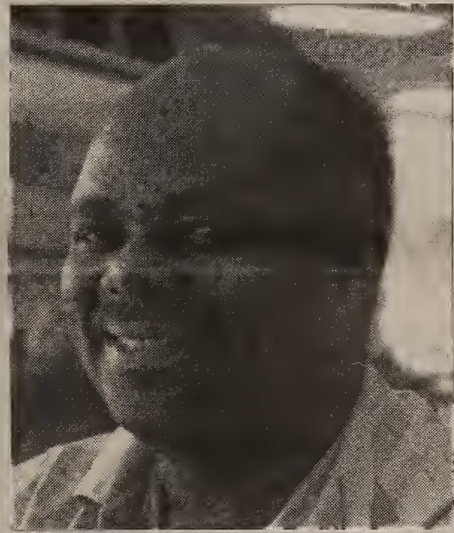
Photos by Angela Clayfield



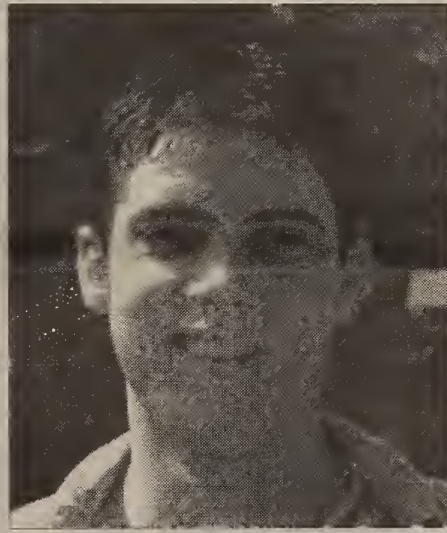
Ryan Woolner, second-year woodworking technology



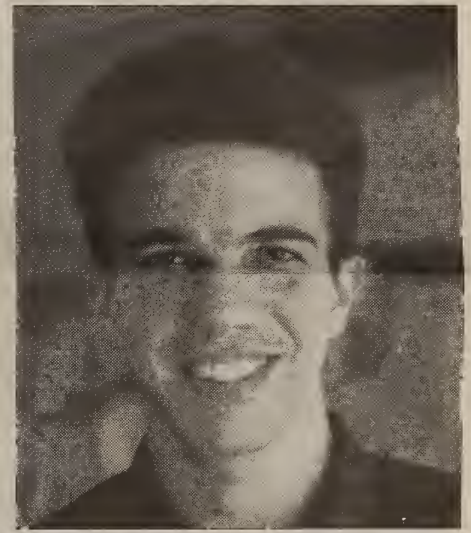
Neil Dunford, home study program instructor.



Dave McIntosh, professor in mechanical engineering.



Dave Kipp, second-year woodworking technology



Kurosh Burris, network support specialist.

## Youth project offers risks, challenges

By Wayne Collins

Some people think life is all about taking risks and seeking the many challenges our world has to offer.

That's why students aged 18-25 sometimes register for the Youth Challenge International volunteer projects in Costa Rica or Guyana, South America.

Mike Buda, youth program manager in Vancouver, B.C. since December 1996, said the program, which began in 1989, is excellent because it benefits youth and communities around the world. He described Youth Challenge International (YCI) as a results-driven organization, constantly striving to improve what they do and how they do it.

During the last six years, more than 1,500 YCI participants from 15 countries have completed projects in 160 communities. In 1999 YCI will co-ordinate several projects in Costa Rica and Guyana, involving about 250 challenges and 60 volunteer staff from around the world.

YCI is a non-profit organization

co-sponsored by the public and private sectors in Canada and abroad. It combines community development, health work and environmental research and promotes international co-operation through "dynamic living" and working exchanges between the people and cultures of different nations.

During their three-month overseas placement, participant teams work with local people on community-building projects such as school construction, aqueducts, wells, health promotion and environmental research.

Buda said many people think youth organizations are incapable of delivering highly effective community-building programs, but YCI is the opposite.

"Given sufficient energy, enthusiasm and hard work, youth are able to make a real tangible difference in (their) community."

He said politicians and business leaders often use youth as "photo-ops" these days but YCI sees them as society's most valuable and "under-utilized resource."

"YCI is succeeding in what we

do," said Buda, "because youth can do for themselves."

Mark Kim, who manages YCI's Toronto office, said the program challenges youth in several ways. First, the volunteers themselves must raise the \$4,200 registration fee through their own fund-raising

**"There are lots of K-W participants, both those who've gone on projects and returned, as well as those who are still in the preparation stages."**

*Mike Buda,  
YCI's youth program manager*

efforts, either by working or finding donors and sponsors.

Some get a little creative at times.

"(One student) spent the summer playing bagpipes in the buskers festival in Nova

Scotia," Kim said, laughing.

Volunteers are encouraged to raise an amount above the requirements, because there are other expenses like vaccinations, physicals and language training.

YCI's selection process is another major hurdle and successful candidates must think in terms of being part of a group, instead of individualism. Each group of 10 or 12 members goes through a nine -to 12-hour series of role-playing scenarios on "selection day", solving a given community's local problems.

This, after all, is what they would be doing in Guyana or Costa Rica.

Each member contributes to group discussions, which, hopefully, provide tangible solutions to problems.

After this, they go through interviews and wait about 3fi months, depending on the time it takes to raise the fee.

Some have done it in one month, while others take five to seven months to prepare.

"Their fund-raising efforts provide the vast majority of the

revenue to run (YCI)," said Buda. "It is their vision that drives us."

He said youth are given enormous responsibilities in the program, whereby they gain self-confidence and important practical new career and life skills.

"YCI gives (them) an experience they can truly own," he said.

More than 1,500 young Canadians have completed the program in the last 10 years, said Buda, including many from the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

"There are lots of K-W participants," he said, "both those who've gone on projects and returned, as well as those who are still in the preparation stages."

Buda said anyone wishing to sign up with YCI could get information at the career centres of Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo, or, from most high school guidance counsellors.

YCI's Web site is [www.yci.org](http://www.yci.org).

Kim said there is no deadline to register with YCI, as its programs run throughout the year.



# Skills Canada - Ontario celebrating ten years

By Wayne Collins

Skills Canada-Ontario will be celebrating its first 10 years of doing good in this province at Kitchener's Centre in the Square and Art Gallery on May 31.

What Gail Smyth, executive director of the organization, describes as a pilot project, which began in Simcoe County in the fall of 1989, has grown to the point of reaching up to 40 per cent of all Ontario students. During this time, Skills Canada's membership has grown rapidly in every province, including the two territories.

Skills Canada has a "strong program operation." It consists of approximately 500 elementary and high schools, plus community colleges throughout Ontario.

According to Smyth and her Skills Canada newsletter, "the success of students making the transition from school to work, and the skills, values and expectations they bring to the labour market, will have enormous consequences for Canada's competitiveness in the global marketplace."

The picture wasn't so rosy back in 1989, says Smyth, who first volunteered with Skills Canada-Ontario in 1990.

"(Back then), educators and companies realized there would be a shortage of skilled workers in the future," she says. "So, they wanted to find a way to encourage young people (to look at the skilled trades) as an option for a first career choice."

The picture wasn't so rosy back in 1989.

Gail Smyth,  
executive director  
Skills Canada- Ontario

Smyth was promoted to her present position two years ago. Today she oversees a staff of seven and helps co-ordinate the efforts of hundreds of volunteers.

At this time of year, she says, she is extremely busy.

Following an announcement

on March 12 that it received contributions of over \$1.3 million from the federal and provincial governments, Skills Canada-Ontario began preparations for hosting some of the largest trade and technology events in Canada this year.

This includes the 10th Ontario Technological Skills Competition on May 31 and June 1 at Conestoga College and Kitchener's Memorial Auditorium.

So, Smyth says, there is lots to celebrate and she's looking forward to the party this week.

Opening ceremonies will kick off at the Centre in the Square at 5:45 p.m. with fireworks and a birthday party. After that the students return to their hotels, around 7 p.m., and prepare for the next day's competitions.

Smyth, who recently appeared on the George and Val radio show, on CHYM-FM to talk about the OSC, is proud of the organization's accomplishments.

"I think the OSC has really made a difference in the lives of young Canadians," Smyth says.

## Self help theory employed by student services staff

Eileen Diniz

While student services staff has been greatly reduced over the summer holidays, some of the staff in the department are carrying on as usual.

Carol Gregory, a counsellor with student services at the Doon Campus, said they certainly intend to keep the normal activities going throughout the summer, but with a reduced staff.

"We still offer counselling and we try to have a counsellor available at all times in case of an emergency with students who are on the campus," she said. "Time is limited and counsellors are on and off campus. (Therefore) students wouldn't be able to get (the same) counsellor for three to five weeks straight in the summer."

Gregory said the counsellors usually look at personal, career, financial and academic counselling during the summer months.

She said students who go through the summer might experience a burn-out stage because they have been in their program for a period of time.

"They need to regroup; look at the end and where it is leading," she said.

### SOS theory

Gregory also explained the SOS theory regarding students and stress. The first step is start on self, the second step is start on situation and the third is seek out support.

Sometimes students get into a pattern of negativity and if the first two steps of SOS don't work they should seek out support from family, friends,



Carol Gregory, a counsellor with student services at Conestoga college discusses summer services and how students can cope with summer stress.

(Photo by Eileen Diniz)

people in the program or counselling, she said.

"Usually, if people do one of those things (SOS) it causes a ripple effect," she said.

Students need to ask themselves if there is anything they can do about their situation in order to change it, said Gregory. They should think of something they like and incorporate it into their lives.

### No summer workshops

Gregory also said that workshops are not offered in the summer but student services is thinking of some new possibilities. The workshops and educational groups aren't offered at this time because the summer is when they are developed, said Gregory.

"We have a committee working on that right now and there are lots of possibilities that we are looking at," she said.

Some of the groups that may be offered in the fall include relaxation, public speaking anxiety, test anxiety and self-esteem, she said.

"Last year was the first time we tried relaxation and we'll probably try it again. It went very well last year."

As for workshops, they will probably offer the usual time management, note taking and organizing materials as well as trying a new workshop on public speaking tips.

"The delivery (public speaking) is an area a lot of students have been asking for help with and we've focused more on public speaking anxiety," said Gregory.

## Peer services programs still run during summer

By Eileen Diniz

The peer services department at Conestoga College offers tutoring throughout the summer semester. Staff are also busy arranging the peer host program and peer mentoring program for the fall.

"Tutoring runs through the summer but, of course, it is not as highly used as during the regular school terms," said Melissa MacClennan, peer services administrator.

The host program matches a senior student with a student from another culture who is new to the college and new to the country.

"Host programs ideally start in August," she said.

The peer mentoring program is when a senior student is matched with a special needs student for one-on-one social support.

"The mentoring program will start in September and it depends on the students' needs, whether it (mentoring) is needed for just one semester," she said.

MacClennan said peer services wasn't working on any new programs but is going to expand the host program due to the increase in international students coming to Conestoga.

"We are preparing for that and we're always making changes that are needed to the programs," she said. "We base what changes to make on the feedback we get from students."

MacClennan also said they are getting ready for students who are coming back to the college who want to be hired on as tutors, hosts and mentors.

"They all go through training programs, so we are getting ready to start planning the training," she said.

"The training for the tutors is going to be approximately four hours and it will be offered twice, so students who can't make



Peer services administrator Melissa MacClennan works out of Doon campus at Conestoga College.

(Photo by Eileen Diniz)

it (the first time) have the option of going to another one," she said.

MacClennan said they cover lots of different areas but the biggest are communication, learning styles, working with people (in terms of what skills are needed) and interpersonal skills.

"The training for the tutors is going to be approximately four hours and it will be offered twice so students who can't make it (the first time) have the option of going to another one."

Melissa MacClennan,  
peer services  
administrator

Peer services advertises and recruits year round. Students are also able to just go into student services if they are interested in being a tutor, host or mentor.

"We have application forms (in the student services office) and then they need to go through an application and hiring process," said MacClennan.

A writing centre has also been added to room 2B22 located across from door number 5.

"We actually go through the peer program and hire and train students who will work in the writing centre as grammar tutors," she added.

"We actually go through the peer program and hire and train students who will work in the writing centre as grammar tutors."

Melissa MacClennan



# Journalism grad starts consulting business

By Andrea Jesson

What do you do when your job isn't paying the bills?

Diane Santos, media relations technician for the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre, started her own business.

Round About Consulting is an events management and fund-raising business only a few weeks old.

"It has a licence and a bank account, but no money in it," said Santos.

Over the past few years, pondering about starting her own business, and the continuous advice from friends and colleagues to look for a full-time job, she finally took the plunge.

For now, she will divide her time between the business and her recreation centre job, until the new company becomes better known.

"I love my job at the rec centre; it's a creative outlet for me," she said. "But it's not full-time hours."

Santos started working at the centre in April 1996 and graduated from the journalism program at Conestoga College in August 1996.

After graduating, Santos said, journalism wasn't a career path she was comfortable with.

"I really enjoy writing, but I didn't feel comfortable going up to people and asking them about their dead children," she said.

Over the past few years she has pondered starting her own business and listened to continuous advice from friends and colleagues to look for a full-time job. She finally took the plunge.

"I had never thought of following it (events management) as a job career



Diane Santos, media relations technician for athletics and recreation, sits at the administration desk at the Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre.

(Photo by Andrea Jesson)

before," she said. "I think it's what I do best."

At first, Santos said, she will plan and organize events that other people or groups just don't have time for as a favour to people, and in return, it will get her name out before the public.

Santos believes she has more of a creative mind, but isn't very good with numbers and marketing.

Teresa Bricker, Santos's assistant marketing partner in the business, said although Santos has had no formal training in marketing, she does have a lot of experience and her business will be successful.

"She's highly organized and motivated," said Bricker, a third-year marketing student at Conestoga College. "She's also good with the media."

Bricker said she will be using her basic

marketing skills to do various tasks, including producing media kits.

"I'll do anything she (Santos) asks me to do," she said.

At the same time, Santos said it will help Bricker beef up her resume.

According to Santos, her marketing assistant will be an asset because Bricker's field is in sports development, an area Santos wants to incorporate into her business. She found she really enjoyed the planning of sports events after running the national and provincial hockey championships at the recreation centre in March.

Although sports is an area Santos said she would prefer to stick with, she admits she doesn't know everything about it.

"Any field of professional sports is hard to get into," she said. "It takes a lot of time and effort."

Her first business attempt at planning a sporting event will take place at a fencing championship in July at the Farm Museum in Milton. It is running in conjunction with the International Fitness Competition and TSN will be present.

Like all entrepreneurs her goal is to be successful. In the meantime, she will be happy just getting any business that comes her way.



Chris Eckland, a Conestoga graduate, proudly displays his third Mercedes, a symbol of his success as an entrepreneur. "The best part of being self-employed is having absolute control of your destiny," Eckland said.

(Photo by Janet Wakutz)

## Former student donates \$5,000

By Janet Wakutz

He has his third Mercedes, homes in Florida and Hamilton, a new wife and a successful business.

What more could the criminology grad want?

"There's a point in time as an entrepreneur that it is important to give back, and Conestoga is where it all began," said Chris Eckland, a 1985 graduate of the program that is now called law and security administration (LASA).

Eckland recently donated \$5,000 that was used to purchase a digital video projector that will be available for use in the fall semester for such things as PowerPoint presentations.

"I owe everything I have in life to the college," said the grad.

Eckland said he was known as "captain" while a student at Conestoga because he was the captain of many intramural teams and was his class representative.

Now he is the owner of Ontario Process Serving, a company based in Hamilton that has 54 locations in Ontario and provides litigation support services. He has put many hours into making his business a success and said his average

work week consisted of 120 hours per week, but since his marriage he has reduced it to 50 to 60 hours.

"The best part of being self-employed is having absolute control of your destiny," said Eckland. "You can have what you want by working harder."

He said the worst part is the undying commitment necessary to be successful. "Your business must be number 1 in your life," he said.

Although he now enjoys financial stability, Eckland hasn't forgotten the past, particularly driving a 1967 Volkswagen Bug with no heat while he was a student.

Eckland's enthusiastic account of his success waned somewhat when he was asked if he keeps in contact with the classmates who once called him captain.

"I must have spent \$1,000 contacting classmates and only five people would come to a dinner," he said, adding, "I find that selfish."

He said he is involved with his community and wants to become more involved with the college. "It pisses me off that my classmates don't feel the same," he said.

He added that some people's demeanour changes for the worse when they go into polic-

ing. He called it the "King Edward syndrome."

One message he would like to give students enrolled in the LASA program is to work hard and take school seriously. "Kids need more shock-talk about their years at college," he said.

"The number 1 thing in life is health," said Eckland, who had blood pressure problems and was hospitalized in the past.

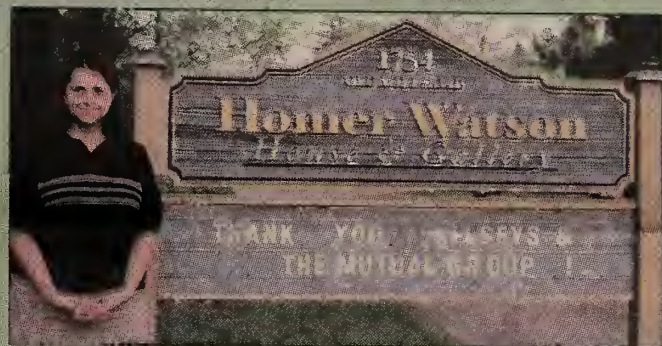
"If you don't have it you've got nothing."

Catching the sight of a familiar teacher in the cafeteria, Eckland called out, "Duane," sprang up from his chair, and ran over to greet him. After reminding the teacher who he was, the faculty member with academic support, Duane Shadd, said, "You're looking great, you lost weight."

"About 40 pounds," agreed Eckland.

After returning to his seat by the window where he could look out over the pond, Eckland said he thinks more should be done to help graduates. He said he would be open to mentoring students if they are interested, and welcomes e-mail at or calls at 1-905-529-2770.

"The main thing is getting out there and giving your heart, soul and life into any business to make it work," he said.



Deanna Voitel welcomes people to the Homer Watson House and Gallery in Kitchener. (Photo by John Oberholtzer)

## College forges link with Homer Watson Gallery

By John Oberholtzer

A relatively new partnership between Conestoga College and the Homer Watson House and Gallery has been a boon in generating interest in the famous Canadian landscape artist and art in general, said the gallery's interim program co-ordinator.

Deanna Voitel said the courses offered at the gallery in the past year, through the college's continuing education program, have increased its stature in the area and also allowed the college to make use of a different venue.

"We're always looking for new ways to connect to the community," she said. "Conestoga College is a perfect example because they're right next door."

Spring courses offered at the gallery, which is nestled on a scenic three-acre lot close to the Doon campus, include garden sculpture, introduction to acrylics, drawing portraits and two watercolour classes.

In July and August, planned courses include figure sculpture, outdoor sketching, basic drawing on location and costume sketching.

There have been some

changes at the gallery in the last year to try and accommodate the growing interest in some of the courses, Voitel said.

A garden studio was recently completed so there will be more room for the popular garden sculpture class, and she added that they hope to refurbish the coach house in the near future.

Scott McNichol, a Conestoga journalism graduate, currently lives in the coach house as the artist in residence, and also teaches several of the courses offered through the college.

Homer Watson owned the house and gallery until his death in 1936, according to Voitel. The two back rooms contain the permanent exhibit of some of his original paintings, as well as other artifacts.

British artists Turner and Constable are artists to whom Watson paid tribute.

She said that when the Doon School of Fine Arts operated out of the house in the '50s and '60s, it was a regular artist's enclave.

"People came from all over Ontario to take art lessons here," Voitel said. "To have these classes now, it's part of the history of the house."



# Microcomputer program fair ends in awards

By Janet Wakutz

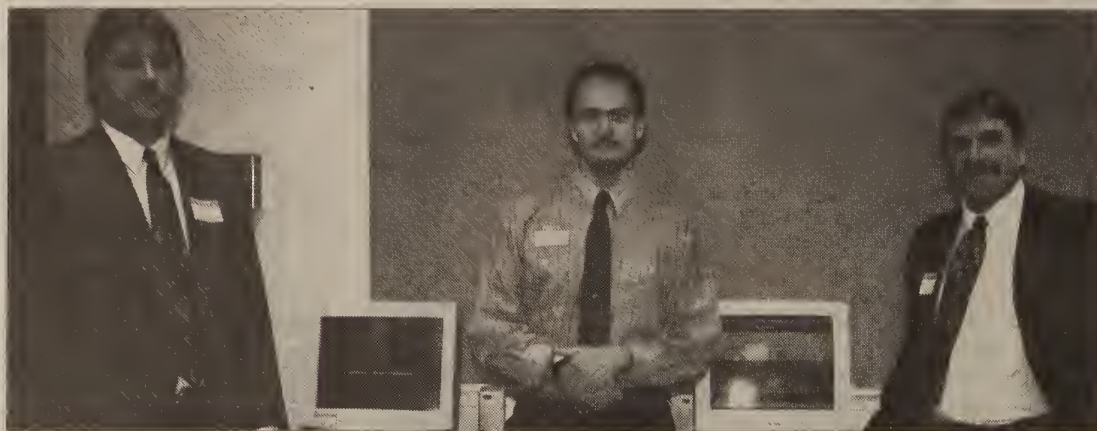
Although only one team could win, all teams present at the microcomputer software certificate program fair appeared to be proud of the programs they designed and displayed.

Since January, teams of three people have been working on developing software that meets the needs of a real business. The CIPS (Canadian Information Processing Society) award presentation was made on May 20 at the Waterloo campus of Conestoga College to the team that developed the winning software.

The annual award is judged by members of the business community and was given to RDR software. The students, Doug Croxall, Rick Naujok and Rob Ullhorn, developed an inventory control system for a business called Kinetex who, they say, will definitely use their software.

"Their (Kinetex) biggest problem was inventory and everything was done manually," said Croxall. Many hours went into developing the software that includes a full user's manual while the students carried a course load of other subjects as well.

The winning team said their biggest challenge was getting



RDR winning team members, from left to right: Rick Naujok, Rob Ullhorn and Doug Croxall. Croxall has found the project a useful tool in obtaining his four-week work placement and the project has led to Naujok obtaining programming contract work.

(Photo by Janet Wakutz)

started from scratch and meeting the needs of their client but said it was a good learning experience.

Ullhorn said the opportunity to work with the team and to take what he's learned and apply it, as well as the client wanting the system, was rewarding.

"It's nice to win something," said Ullhorn. "I've never won anything in my life, and it will look good on a resume." He said it makes him feel good to win in view of the stiff competition they were up against from their classmates.

John Porr, regional director of

CIPS, the sponsor of the award, presented the RDR team with \$360 and memberships to CIPS, a national organization of professionals that sets standards and receives international recognition for information technology.

"This is kind of the grand finale of the program," said co-ordinator Barb Power. She said the microcomputer software certificate project is similar to the third-year computer programming analyst projects done at Doon campus every year.

Program faculty member, Norm Jobs said this year two of the

applications will be used by the client businesses.

"The biggest difference," said Jobs, who has been involved in these projects for four to five years, "is they are now done on Microsoft." They're better looking and have more functions he said, describing the projects as "more slick, like something you'd buy commercially."

He said when he showed these students the projects from last year, they didn't believe they could do it. Jobs said when the group of students recently toured NCR the message emphasized by

the company was teamwork and that, along with computing and programming, was the element of success for the projects.

Students Mark Byerley, Steve Alexandris and Brian Wilmer developed a program for the University of Waterloo to track varsity athletes and donations for the sports program.

The project ballooned as they investigated the needs of their clients, said Byerley.

Another team, Computricks, consisting of students Roxanne Barlett, Nadine Murray and Ken Morris, said their program will be used in eight hospitals. The program developed for the Huron, Perth Diabetes Education Program will track clients and statistics for diabetic clinics and provide easy access to storage and retrieval of that information.

"The most challenging was the amount of information we needed to collect," said Morris. Another challenge was the fact that the students live in Cambridge, Kitchener and Seaforth and had to do a lot of their communication through Internet chats and e-mail.

"We had over 50 hours of use in one weekend," said Morris.

Murray said, "People seem pleased with what we came up with so it was worth it."

## Golf tournament resurrected

By Michelle Lehmann

The threat of rain didn't materialize during the Conestoga College Employees' Golf Tournament.

Instead, players enjoyed a beautiful spring day on the greens.

"This year's two ball, foursome, nine-hole golf tournament was a huge success," said Sherley Loucks, a college planning and international education staff member and coordinator of the event.

The tournament, originally called the Waterloo Employees' Golf Tournament, began over 20 years ago at the Waterloo campus. But due to changes within the college, a number of people moved to the Doon campus and the original event deteriorated.

She said over the years people outside the Waterloo campus were participating in the tournament, making it more of a college event rather than specifically a Waterloo event.

"Because the tournament changed quite a bit, we decided to

"The tournament has been really successful year after year. There are a lot of golfers at Conestoga."

*Sherley Loucks, co-ordinator of the golf tournament*

switch it over to an event for all Conestoga College Employees," said Loucks.

The recreational golf tournament was held May 18 at Doon Valley golf course and included an optional buffet dinner, some door prizes and a gift exchange.

"The event is just a fun thing," said Loucks, who has been involved with the event for five years. "It's a time for the employees to get together for a casual, easygoing function; it's not a fundraising event at all."

This year's limit was 40, but with growing popularity 48 employees signed up for an afternoon of golf and they were able to accommodate all of them, said Loucks.

"The tournament has been really successful year after year," she said. "There are a lot of golfers at Conestoga."

Although the college has planned the recurring golf tournament for over two decades, there was no tournament held in 1998.

Loucks said the reason there was no tournament last year was because people got too busy to organize it so the event was cancelled.

"But we soon realized the people, who participated in the tournament for years, wanted to see it back up and running, said Loucks.



Sherley Loucks, co-ordinator of the golf tournament, gets ready to tee off with her colleagues at Doon Valley golf course on May 18.

(Photo by Michelle Lehmann)

"So we resurrected it this year."

She said she agreed to organize the tournament this year because she had helped out in the past and saw how much fun the employees had.

"We think it's important for colleagues to get together and do something other than working in the office, teaching in the classroom or sitting in the computer lab," Loucks said. "This is a chance to get away from the campus itself and to enjoy some camaraderie."

## Cafeteria slow but not dead during summer

By Brian Gall

When Tony Chappell heard voices over the cash register microphone at Conestoga's Harvey's a few weeks ago, the store manager knew it could not be any of his employees talking. It was a slow business day during exams and none of his workers was at the front. After he came out from his office to find a couple of student customers using the mic, he couldn't help but chuckle.

The two guys returned afterwards and asked Chappell, food-service director at Conestoga, "So we can use the microphone?" His response was, "I'll tell you what, come back later and you can use it all you want."

"What I should have said was 'And if you want to sing go right ahead,'" added Chappell.

Though business is slower and operating hours are shorter during the summer semester, he said he would be delighted if the cafeteria was half as busy as it is in regular terms. He actually prefers the busy time of year over the summer because of the energy that it brings.

"Personally, I like it when the students are around. It's exciting, things are happening. It's fun."

With so many fewer students in summer classes, Conestoga's

food-services are now limited. The Market Grill, Dooners Coffee Shop and Roasters are all closed.

Mr. Sub is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Hours at Harvey's are 7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. They also reopen from 5 to 7 during evenings Monday through Thursday.

The main cafeteria is open from 7:45 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and closes at 2:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Full-service will resume during the week of August 30.

Just because business is slowing does not mean the cafeteria will become boring as far as what kind of things are offered. Chappell says he is a great believer in trying anything, providing there is support for it.

An idea for a package entrée once a week is something he is contemplating to create some variety. Barbecued chicken and a salad, for instance, may be offered as a self-serve type of meal.

Not able to bring in as many staff during the summer, Chappell said this common sense approach is beneficial for both students and cafeteria workers.

"You (customers) get a change and we get a change from the normal stuff."

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# Journalism teacher to retire

*"I already have a number of things in mind to keep me busy," says Andrew Jankowski*

By Michelle Lehmann

He's a poet, he's a wood carver, he's a potential computer programmer. Whatever he may be, the people at Conestoga College have only known Andrew Jankowski as a teacher.

After teaching journalism for 27 years and being the program coordinator for 13 years, he said it's time to leave.

For Jankowski, retirement doesn't mean sleeping until noon or sitting in front of the TV set all day.

"There's still a number of things I want to do with my life and I'm ready to begin them," he said.

He said there are five things that he still wants to do — write poetry and fiction, rediscover photography, learn about woodcarving, build an airplane and try some computer programming.

And the more he thinks about them, the more he wants to get on with them.

"I expect I'll find that there aren't enough hours in the day to do everything that I want," Jankowski said.

"I want to write because all of my life, as a journalist, I've been writing things that other people told me to write," he said. "Now I'll have the freedom to write

things I want to write."

His natural preference is writing poetry and fiction but he said he has not had much time to do so over the years and looks forward to the chance again.

"I've always loved poetry," Jankowski said. "I wrote my first poem when I was eight years old and I've been writing ever since."

Jankowski said he writes for himself because he enjoys it.

**"I have an airplane to build. My house is full of airplane parts, so I have to finish that project."**

*Andrew Jankowski,  
journalism teacher*

There is a drawer full of partially written poems and a half-finished novel he will now have time to complete.

Professional photography is another passion of Jankowski's. It was something he was involved in and really misses today.

"I want to get back into photography in a big way because I've

neglected it for the last few years."

A fairly recent hobby is woodcarving, which he said he not only enjoys but is also quite good at.

"I already have a number of projects in mind to keep me busy," Jankowski said. "I would like to carve people — the human body — but I haven't done very much of that and I know I have a lot to learn about."

What some of the people at Conestoga may not know is that Jankowski has been a pilot since the age of 18.

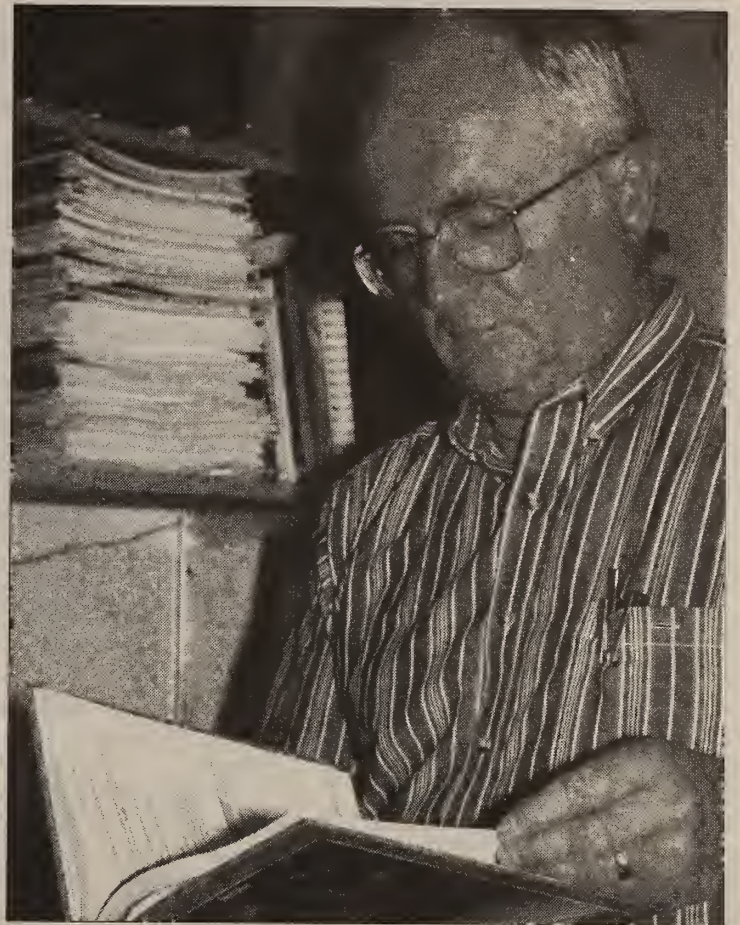
"I have an airplane to build," said Jankowski. "My house is full of airplane parts, so I have to finish that project."

Another interest of Jankowski's is computers, and he wants to continue working with them and try computer programming.

Although Jankowski is eager to retire, he said he is going to miss socializing with friends at the college and teaching students.

"I'll miss seeing people because most of the things I want to do are solitary activities. That will mean I'll become out of touch with others."

Jankowski said he doesn't mind being alone because he is comfortable with himself, but it will be a big adjustment.



Andrew Jankowski, a journalism teacher at Conestoga College for 27 years, will be retiring in June. (Photo by Michelle Lehmann)

## Special needs office gearing up for the fall

By Linda Wright

The special needs office at the Doon campus is gearing up for the intake process for September 1999, with forms coming in as early as May 18.

"We like to set up high school students first," said special needs advisor Marian Mainland.

Because it's harder in the summer months to get documentation from the high schools, the special needs office sets up appointments right away for the students.

The sooner special needs students get their assessment forms in, the sooner their needs will be met, said Mainland.

They get a letter when they get accepted that if they have special needs, it is important to get in (to special needs) to book an appointment as soon as possible, said Mainland.

Sometimes the marks that the students get aren't necessarily a reflection of what they could get with help.

Mainland said, "Without documentation, it's like taking a stab in the dark."

Some students wait until September, even people with serious disabilities. They don't want



Special needs advisor Marian Mainland is already booking appointments with students for the fall intake. (Photo by Eileen Diniz)

any help, said Mainland. "Don't wait — come in right away and let us tell you what we can do for you," she said.

Most people don't want to ask for help and try to handle the work without the support of the special needs office.

Without formal testing, you get set up with temporary accommodations and your name goes on a waiting list to have an assessment done. There were about 112 people on the waiting list last

September and every year it's higher.

When the special needs staff assess someone they look at three different areas. They assess how they learn, they assess how their learning breaks down and they figure out what support they can put into place.

"We are not dealing with slow learners. These are people who have the ability to handle college programs, but they need these supports to do it," said Mainland.

**"We are not dealing with slow learners. These are people who have the ability to handle college programs, but they need these supports to do it."**

*Marian Mainland, special needs advisor*

## Former Stratford campus honoured as heritage site

By Lesley Turnbull

The Stratford Normal School, which once was a campus for Conestoga College, was to be commemorated by the Ontario Heritage Foundation on May 20.

Almost 27 years ago, Conestoga College first leased the building through the province of Ontario.

Post-secondary programs such as general business were available as well as adult training, said Kevin Mullan, member of Conestoga College's finance department.

Conestoga College moved out of the building in the late 1980s due to extensive repairs that needed to be made. There was no air-conditioning and it was not accessible to people with special needs.

There was a reduction in federal government training purchases as well.

Also, students began to transfer to the Doon campus because of its college atmosphere, said Mullan. Stratford did not have a recreation centre and didn't school as many students as Doon.

The Stratford Normal School once was known as the Stratford Teachers College.

Between 1908 and 1973 it trained almost 14,000 teachers.

Of four identical Italian Renaissance Normal Schools opened in 1908 and 1909, Stratford's is the only one to survive without significant alter-

ation. It's now a designated heritage building.

A group called the Friends of the Stratford Normal School have dedicated themselves to maintaining the heritage aspect of the building. They plan to repair, restore and maintain the large stained glass memorial window that lights the stairwell between the second and third floor as well as other repairs.

"Stratford has always had a strong sense of heritage," said Stratford city councillor and Conestoga College political science teacher Michael Dale.

Ketchum, a consultant firm specializing in raising funds, has been hired to find out where they can get the money for the repairs.

To restore the bare necessities of the building would cost \$2.5 million, Dale said. It would cost \$4 million to do more than just the necessities.

"It's always a daunting task to raise that amount of money," said Dale.

The Stratford Museum is now on the first floor of the building and is trying to raise money to acquire the second floor also.

Other tenants are still needed, Dale said.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation also was to present heritage conservation easement markers for the Gordon Block and St. James Anglican Church in Stratford and the Fryfogel Inn in Shakespeare at the commemoration.



# Women's group discusses plans for school year

By Carly Benjamin

Sixteen women turned out May 19 to a meeting of the women's resource group at the Doon campus where upcoming strategies and plans were discussed.

"It is wonderful to receive such energy and enthusiasm from a larger group," said counsellor Joan Magazine, who chaired the meeting.

A background summary of the group was presented at the beginning of the meeting, detailing its birth and work to date.

## Group history

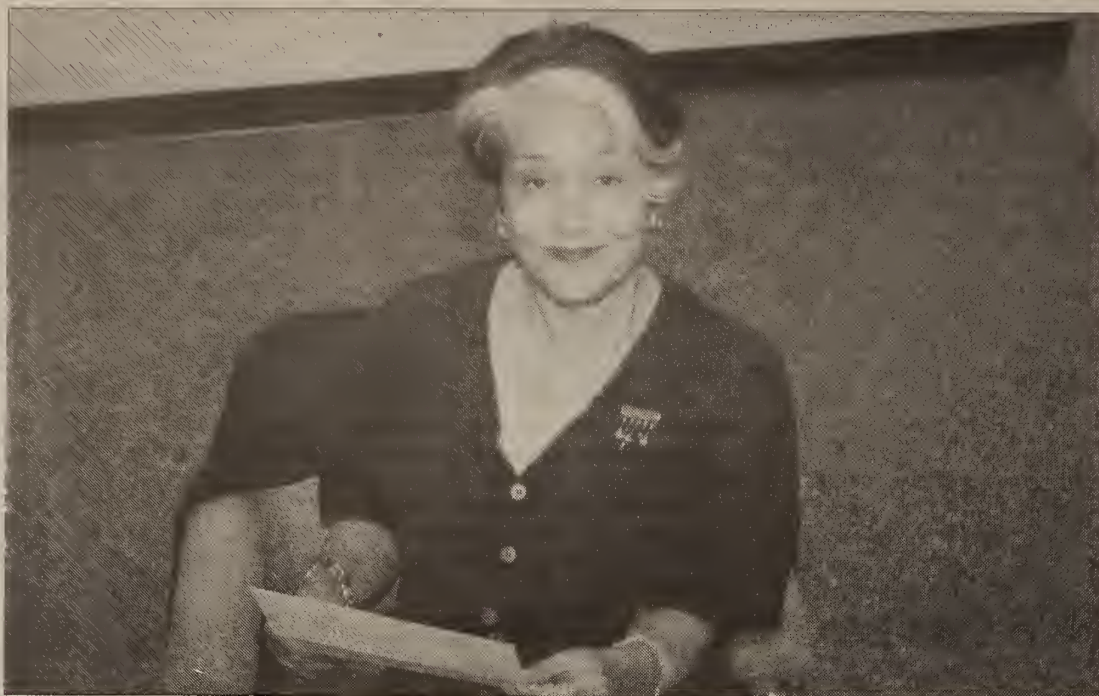
The group was formed in 1991 with funding provided by the NDP government and approximately \$4,500 in grants from Connections: From Awareness to Action Grant, which was aimed at post-secondary violence against women prevention, but is no longer available.

Beginning in 1993, Ministry of Education and Training provided funding through the Campus Safety for Women Grant.

Since then, the women's resource group had benefited from more than \$15,000 in grants from that organization and will continue to receive funding in 1999 and 2000.

The money received is spent on guest speakers, self-help brochures, theatre groups and workshops.

In September, during the week of welcome, the women's resource group plans to join forces with the DSA and bring in Norman



Joan Magazine, a committee member of the women's resource at Conestoga College, chaired the meeting on May 19.

(Photo by Carly Benjamin)

Nawrocki, a guest speaker who will talk about the myths behind homosexuality.

The international cabaret artist, educator and author is a one-man comedy cabaret aimed at unsuspecting homophobic people in denial.

In conjunction with the DSA, the resource group also hopes to have sex educator Sue Johanson return to the school in February to speak to students and staff about healthy sexual relations.

Ideas were tossed around about activities that focused on Take

Back the Night, harassment awareness and residence activities.

Raising the profile of the resource group was also discussed. Group members agreed posters and displays must target key issues and events to attract

"A radio call-in show could allow students to have their concerns dealt with anonymously,"

*Barb Kraller, counsellor in student services*

student involvement.

The issue of male violence was also covered at the meeting.

"We should have more activities that will attract male support," said Magazine.

The concept of utilizing the anticipated FM radio station was also raised.

Barb Kraller, a counsellor in student services said, "A radio call-in show could allow students to have their concerns dealt with anonymously."

Magazine said the group will likely not meet again until the new school year but new members are always welcome to participate.

## Submitted letter

Committee member Madeleine Poynter, a teacher in social services, submitted a letter to the Spoke editor the day after the meeting objecting to the group's characterization in a Spoke story May 17 which had outlined what would be discussed at the May 19 meeting.

She said in the letter that, contrary to the story's statements, "fighting for the equality of women has never been an activity of the women's resource group as far as I'm aware, nor is it a preoccupation of my own," and women's rights "have been both legislated and protected through the Charter of Rights and Freedom for many years."

Poynter's letter said the women's resource group has, however, tried to address many issues in relation to female health, safety and social vulnerability, which affect women.

## Take steps to avoid rape drugs Conestoga counsellor advises

By Carly Benjamin

"In 1995 a Toronto man, who remains anonymous under the Young Offenders Act, was convicted of using drugs to rape over 500 women," said Casey Cruikshank, director of Waterloo Region Sexual Assault Treatment Centre.

She said date rape drugs are accessible and students must be aware of how to protect themselves.

She said many of the drugs used to sedate victims of rape are prescription drugs, such as the sedative halcyon.

### In the past

Cruikshank said in the past, alcohol and substances such as chloral hydrate or "Mickey Finns" have been misused to involuntarily sedate people and sexually assault them.

Recently, there have been articles and reports in which other substances have been identified including gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), rohypnol and ketamine.

### Recent tests

Recent laboratory tests on the urine of survivors of substance-related sexual assault showed

traces of other substances, including alcohol, amphetamines and barbiturates.

"Be aware sedating drugs, when criminally misused, often are referred to by a number of street names," she said.

Slang terms include liquid ecstasy, easy lay for GHB, and special K for ketamine.

Cruikshank said common street names of rohypnol include roofies, roachies, la rocha and the forget pill.

"This drug is particularly dangerous," she said. "It is extremely difficult to detect through blood samples."

She added Heather Lord, a chemist and researcher from the University of Waterloo, is in the process of developing a test to detect rohypnol in the body.

### Individual reactions

Cruikshank said individuals might react differently to sedating substances depending on the dosage, their metabolism and sensitivity to the substance, and the presence of alcohol and/or other drugs in the system.

She said dangerous and sometimes life-threatening side effects might occur from date rape sedative drugs.

"Tell-tale signs that one may be

under the influence of a sedating substance include impaired judgement, loss of inhibition, dizziness and confusion," she said.

If someone appears extremely intoxicated after drinking a non-alcoholic beverage, or only a small amount of alcohol, they may have unknowingly ingested one of a number of substances.

Joan Magazine, a counsellor from student services, said there are steps students can take to reduce the risk of being drugged and sexually assaulted.

"You should never leave beverages unattended," she said. "And you should never accept beverages from someone you do not know well and trust."

She said be alert to the behaviour of friends and ask them to watch out for you, and know your limits.

Counsellors are always available in the student services office to provide their services to victims who have been drugged and raped, as well as provide help with any other problems students are struggling with, in confidence.

Magazine said counsellors might refer students to the health office or link the student to other professionals in the community.

Old CD Use # 54

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# Frank Black and The Catholics heading down road of success

By Adam Wilson

After the break up of The Pixies in 1991, lead singer Frank Black needed a new platform to express his brand of space-rock to the world.

After three solo albums, Frank Black, Teenager of the Year and Cult of Ray, Black rounded up a backup band and recorded a new album. The first self-titled album by Black and The Catholics received fantastic reviews, but failed to draw a large audience.

After a label move to Hamilton's Sonic Unyon, the second album by the group, Pistolero, has a new sound, but is still an entertaining treat for Pixies fans and Black fans alike.

Pistolero strays from Black's usual space-rock sound and goes for a more mainstream rock sound.

There are more straightforward guitar rock riffs and not as many winding, piercing solos that were frequent in The Pixies' music and his first two solo albums.

## Album review

The speed of Pistolero has changed substantially from any of Black's previous solo albums.

Pistolero was recorded on a two-track in less than a week, but it doesn't show at all when you listen to the album. Having all of the band members playing at the same time, with no overdubs, makes an album seem better and more real when you listen to it.

Black doesn't completely shut out his old sound on Pistolero. Songs like Western Star, Tiny Heart (which is reminiscent of The Pixies' Alec Eiffel), I Love Your Brain and I Think I'm Starting To Lose It sound like they could have easily made it onto any of The Pixies' albums.

But some of the more experimental songs on this album are the ear candy fans expect from Black.

I Switched You and Billy Radcliffe show Black is beginning to change his sound. No matter how subtle, it's a change, nonethe-

less. Not a bad change, but one that takes a bit of getting used to.

Fans have always said Black is a master of lyrics. His basic way of styling a song with a verse-chorus-verse rhythm help create short, straight-to-the-point, gritty rock. His talent lies in putting together strange lyrics and making a great song out of them - something only a handful of songwriters can do.

The song Skeleton Man is a prime example. In it Black sings, "I met a child in the hills from the people of the corn. It's been 800 years since this child was born and in his ribs I found a pearl, an offering from the corn world."

It's words like these that make you want to just sit, listen to the music and think about what message Black is trying to get across.

The Pixies have been called the first alternative band to hit the American music scene.

Long before the grunge movement became the big music scene, The Pixies enjoyed a loyal fan base, hit records, and all the perks that come along with being a popular band.

Having influenced other bands like Weezer and Nirvana, The Pixies are a band whose music should be cherished. But don't count on a Pixies reunion. All we have left of The Pixies is Black and The Catholics. Pistolero is a great album on many different levels. If you don't listen to this album you are missing out on something special.

On one of the later tracks on the album, Black sings, "I think I'm starting to lose it." Pistolero is proof that Black and The Catholics are far from losing it. They're just beginning, and have lots of success waiting for them down the road.



(Internet photo)

## Movie review

# After 3,000 years The Mummy rises

By Eileen Diniz

"The sands will rise. The heavens will part. The power will be unleashed."

The above statement is the tagline for the new action/adventure The Mummy. The film was written and directed by Stephen Sommers (Deep Rising).

Brendan Fraser (Blast from the Past) stars as Rick O'Connell, an American adventure seeker. Rachel Weisz (Chain Reaction) stars as Evelyn Carnarvon, a museum librarian and Egyptologist. Arnold Vosloo stars as high priest of Os, Imhotep. Jack Hannah (Sliding Doors) also stars in this film as Jonathan, Evelyn's alcoholic older brother.

The Mummy starts before the opening credits. We learn that Imhotep was cursed and buried alive by the Pharaoh because he was having an affair with his girlfriend.

The movie is about a group of treasure hunters and archeologists, led by Rick and Evelyn, who travel to an old Egyptian city, Hamunaptra, to find its buried treasures.

During their dig they awaken an undead and unfriendly mummy who has lain undisturbed for the past 3,000 years.

The film progresses a little from here when Imhotep rises

and transforms himself into the ultimate evil. We also learn at this point that Imhotep "is a walking disease" and he is going to unleash 10 proverbial plagues upon Egypt.

Obviously, Rick and his gang must stop the bad guy before he destroys the world and save the damsel in distress before it is too late.

Despite sharing the same name as the 1932 Boris Karloff film,

Rick and his gang must stop the bad guy before he destroys the world and save the damsel in distress before it's too late.

The Mummy is a remake in the broadest sense.

It is completely different except for a few minor plot details.

The new movie includes some humour, which makes the film much more enjoyable.

At one point Rick is asked what his mission is and he

says, "Rescue the damsel in distress, kill the bad guy and save the world".

The violence isn't that graphic or disturbing despite the state-of-the-art special effects, and it is not a boring movie, considering it's over two hours. It is enchanting and stimulating.

Overall, The Mummy is worth watching but leaves you with the feeling that something new should have been tried to enhance the film a bit.

It is currently playing at Fairway Cinema in Kitchener and Cambridge Cinema on Hespeler Road.

# Avant-garde theme for annual hair show

By Lesley Turnbull

The second annual Elements of Style Hair Show was scheduled to take place on May 30 at 7 p.m. at the Revolution nightclub in Waterloo.

The organizers were anticipating an avant-garde fantasy show with dancers from the Moree School of Dance, a fashion show from Delirium clothing and accessories and a display of lights and pyrotechnics.

Hosted by Energy 108 radio personality Krista Taylor, the show's event organizer Toby Poirier was confident it would be a success.

"It's going to be an exciting and entertaining show," Poirier said prior to the event.

The nine local salons scheduled were Hot Heads Salon, Chameleon Hair Studio and Spa, Imagery in Hair Beauty Spa, Le Salon Coiffure, Studio Voila, Wavelength Directions in Hair, Excess Salon, The Cutting Room and Deeva Hair.

Each salon was to be given four minutes to show their wildest fantasies in hairstyles.

They were to pick their own music, clothes, makeup, models and create the hairstyles on the models.

The salons benefit by showing local residents that Kitchener-Waterloo has creative and talented hairstylists.

"Kitchener-Waterloo (salons) have what it takes," said Poirier.

Tickets were to be sold for \$10 giving purchasers a chance to win \$1,000 or prizes supplied by Pier Imports, Bootlegger, East Side Marios, King Street Trio, HMTV and many other local retailers.

All proceeds from the entry tickets and auction tickets are to be split between the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and the Aids Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo and Area.

"I think that more people in the community should do stuff like this," Poirier said. "For the charities and not for personal gain."

The Revolution donated the use of their nightclub for the show.

Last year, students from Marvel Beauty School created the first annual Elements of Style hair show.

Poirier, who is now an apprentice at Hot Heads and a bartender at the Revolution nightclub in Waterloo was one of those students.

A teacher who worked at the school had a son, Randy Hepditch, who was in a diving accident. The students decided they wanted to raise money for Hepditch but weren't sure how to go about it. Combining their talents, they put together the first hair show to raise money for charities in the community and to help Hepditch.

The first show raised \$6,900 for charity. Close to 700 people attended the show at Stages nightclub and 400 were turned away at the door because the club was full.

"All the salons did amazing work," said Poirier. "Everyone gave 150 per cent."

This year 1,400 people were expected to attend and organizers hoped \$25,000 would be raised for charity.

Poirier said each year the show will become bigger and better.

"Watch out next year because it's going to be 10 times bigger."



Toby Poirier was the event organizer for the second annual Elements of Style hair show. (Photo by Lesley Turnbull)



## Just before the finals



Kelly Rocha (right) and Jen Charles take part in a water fight just before their final exam on May 20.

(Photo by Elizabeth Sackrider)

## Election far from landslide

By John Oberholtzer

Imagine the charming, mischievous Ferris Bueller turning into one of the pathetic teachers he loved to torment.

It may be difficult to picture, but in effect, that's what Matthew Broderick has done in the new movie, *Election*. Broderick, who catapulted to fame as the scheming title character in 1986's *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, plays sad sack high school teacher Jim McAllister, who gets a little too involved with the campaign for student body president.

McAllister teaches history and civics at G. W. Carver high school in Omaha, Neb., where a fanatically keen student named Tracy Flick (Rerspoon) is running unopposed for president.

But McAllister convinces Carver's dimwitted quarterback to enter the race against Flick.

To complicate matters, the quarterback's lesbian sister joins the fray as a third candidate to spite her brother for stealing her girlfriend. Who said life in Omaha was boring?

To some extent, this high school election is a commentary on the past 25 years of American political history. The characters remind us of various crooks (Richard Nixon), B-movie actors (Ronald Reagan) and philanderers (Bill Clinton) who have actually been elected president. It's almost natural for the characters to behave badly, considering their role models.

The level of cynicism about politics is so great, the lesbian candidate's speech outlining her plan to disband the student government is greeted with riotous applause.

The film also gets some laughs from satirizing midwestern American stereotypes. It's funny to see McAllister trudge around his suburban home in garish, polka-dotted pajamas, and funnier still when he sneaks down to the basement to uncover his carefully hidden porno movies.

When he casually asks a woman with whom he wants to have an affair, "Should we get a room?", it doesn't sound too far removed from when he asks her, "So how about this weather?"

Broderick gives a subtle performance as his character slowly unravels, and Witherspoon shines as a cross between the girl next door and Eva Braun.

Unfortunately, the humour dries up in the second half. Director Alexander Payne awkwardly shifts the tone from cartoonish to serious. Is the audience supposed to sympathize with the congenitally bland and one dimensional characters? Or is the film so entrenched in today's ironic and ultra-hip world that we're expected to laugh at people's misery?

If *Election* was an election, I think I would abstain.

## Pushing Tin pushes audience away

By Charles Kuepfer

Some movies are released without much fanfare and hype and quietly make their mark with audiences. Others fade away as quickly as they came.

*Pushing Tin* is an example of the latter: a film killed by its own meagre attempts to quietly win over an audience.

The movie is a firsthand look at the world of air traffic controllers and the stressful lives they lead. Quality actors like John Cusack (Con Air, Grosse Pointe Blank) and Billy Bob Thornton (Sling Blade, A Simple Plan) get dragged along by a horrible script, which is derived from the article "Something's Got to Give" by Darcy Frey. Actresses Cate Blanchett (Elizabeth) and Angelina

Jolie (Hackers) also offer their talents, wasting them in the process.

This film is neither overly entertaining nor revealing. The subject itself, while interesting, cannot save the film in the end.

Director Mike Newell fails to capture the moviegoer like he did with his previous works, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, or the gripping Mafia flick, *Donnie Brasco*.

Of course, in fairness, he doesn't have Al Pacino to work with either, as he did in *Donnie Brasco*.

The movie revolves around a rivalry between Nick "The Zone" Falzone (Cusack) and the strange and crazy Russell Bell (Thornton).

Nick is king of the radar approach control centre at the New York Terminal until

Russell moves into town, having earned a reputation as a freak while working at various locations as an air traffic controller in the southern U.S.

As the rumour goes, Russell once stood in the turbulent wake of a departing Boeing 747, which tossed him around like a rag doll.

Russell seizes the challenge of "pushing tin" in the finite airspace above Kennedy, La Guardia and Newark airports, which handle up to 7,000 flights a day.

Nick and Russell are pitted against each other from the moment they meet.

Whether it is competing to see who can line up the most planes in a row on the radar screen, or shoot the most consecutive baskets at a barbecue, Nick and Russell try to outdo each other.

The rivalry spills over into their personal lives and Nick ends up sleeping with Russell's stunning wife, Mary (Jolie).

The incident systematically unravels Nick's world, reducing him to a ball of jangled nerves, especially when he finds out Mary has told her husband about her extramarital activities.

The disturbing part is that Russell calmly accepts the incident, to the amazement of Nick, but uses it as a psychological advantage in their game of one-upmanship.

With competition spinning out of control, it is only a matter of time before the winner, not the loser, could lose it all.

*Pushing Tin*, rated AA, plays nightly at 6:50 and 9:30 at Kitchener's Fairway Cinemas.

## Brit caper flick is a barrel of fun

By Adam Wilson

What would you do if you got cheated out of 100,000 British pounds in a card game? Then ended up owing 500,000 pounds to the crime boss, who just cheated you, by the end of the week? Then found out that if you didn't have the money by the end of the week, you would lose one finger for each day the payment was late?

These questions are thrown in the face of four friends in the hilarious black-comedy/crime caper, *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

*Barrels* was written and directed by first-time filmmaker Guy Ritchie. *Smoking Barrels* is obviously influenced by the Quentin Tarantino films, *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, but manages to come across as a fresh piece of work.

Filmed in Britain last year, and enjoying great commercial and critical success there, *Smoking Barrels* was sent to the U.S. to see how it would fare in a country where movies with witty dialogue,

guns and violence, and foul language are plentiful. Needless to say, *Smoking Barrels* was as big of a hit in the United States as it was in Britain.

The movie starts out with four friends, Eddy (Nick Moran), Tom (Jason Fleming), Soap (Dexter Fletcher), and Bacon (Jason Statham), collecting 100,000 pounds to get into a high stakes card game with local gangster and porn king, Harry the Hatchet (P. H. Moriarty).

Knowing that Eddy is a threat when it comes to playing cards, Harry and his henchman Barry the Baptist (Lenny McLean) plan a scheme to cheat during the card game.

When all is said and done, Eddy finds himself with a 500,000-pound debt owing to Harry.

But not only does he owe

Harry money, but Eddy and his friends find themselves with one week to pay it back with their fingers being the interest.

As the week quickly passes, the four lads find themselves getting desperate for the money and are willing to do anything to get it.

With two days left to pay the money back, Eddy overhears a conversation his criminal neighbours are having about

stealing money and drugs from some local dealers.

At the same time, Harry assigns two hoods to steal two priceless antique

shotguns from another rich family. These shotguns end up in the hands of Eddy and his friends, and are used to steal the drug money from his neighbours.

There are other sub-plots that end up making this film more Tarantino-like in the end

with double-crossing, different stories all tying into one, and of course, a massive pile up of bodies.

The characters of Eddy, Tom, Soap and Bacon are a little underdeveloped. We don't really know why they all decide to get in on this card game. We don't know anything about any of them aside from the fact that Soap is a chef. But that doesn't play a big factor in the overall feel of the movie. What the audience can't get over is all of the trouble these four guys get into in the matter of a week, and still survive. It's the witty dialogue, spoken with those thick British accents, that keeps us listening intently. It's wanting to know, "How will they get out of this one?"

Like *Pulp Fiction*, there are a couple of gruesome scenes, but nothing to pass out over. *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* is a good movie, that deserved to be a box-office hit in North America. This movie is not for the weak of heart, but it is for those who like dark, crime comedies that are so prominent in Hollywood today.

*Smoking Barrels* is obviously influenced by the Quentin Tarantino films.

## Keeping Conestoga College beautiful



Peter Charlton keeps Conestoga beautiful as he cuts the lawns at Doon campus.

(Photo by Carly Benjamin)